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## **ALTERNATIVE SITE ANALYSIS**

PLANNING BOARD GRAFTON, MA

The undersigned hereby states the following in support of the application by T-Mobile Northeast LLC (hereinafter "T-Mobile") to construct and operate a wireless communications facility at the parcel located at 29 Leland Hill Road, Grafton, MA identified by Grafton Assessor's records as Map: 113 Parcel: 104A (the "Site").

- My name is Paul Reed and I am a Site Acquisition Specialist for Centerline
   Communications LLC (hereinafter "Centerline"). I have been retained by T-Mobile to provide services for the purpose of obtaining approvals, leases, and licenses as well as performing other site acquisition and development tasks involved in building and installing wireless communication facilities. I have performed, and am performing, such services in connection with T-Mobile's proposed wireless communications facility located at the Site.
- 2. I have participated directly or through my present and past employment in the development of hundreds of such facilities, including wireless communication facilities similar to the facility proposed for the Site. I have personally visited the Site and the area surrounding the Site on numerous occasions. I submit this affidavit based on my personal knowledge of the Site and the surrounding area and based on my professional experience in the development of wireless communication facilities.
- 3. When T-Mobile's radio frequency experts identify an area within which a wireless communications installation is required to provide coverage to a significant gap in its coverage network, the area is illustrated upon a map and issued to the Site Acquisition

- Specialist. In this instance, the required area is in the approximate area of this portion of Leland Hill Road; Main Street / Route 122A; and Pleasant Street.
- 4. Part of my site acquisition and development duties include identifying potential candidates within the area identified by T-Mobile's radio frequency experts. The candidate identification process includes reviewing the applicable zoning ordinance to identify areas within which the proposed use is allowed. Viable candidates consist of existing structures of sufficient height from which an antenna installation can provide sufficient coverage, or lacking such a structure, parcels located within the narrowly defined search area upon which a tower may be constructed to a sufficient height. In order to be viable, a candidate must provide adequate coverage to the significant gap in T-Mobile's network. In addition, all viable candidates must have a willing landowner with whom commercially reasonable lease terms may be negotiated. Preference is given to locations that closely comply with local zoning ordinances, or in the event no viable candidates are determined to be located within such areas, to identify other potentially suitable locations, with preference given to existing structures. In this case, the water tank is an existing structure negating the need to consider a new tower. The only other existing structure identified as possibly being able to satisfy the substantial gap in coverage for T-Mobile is the Union Congregational Church steeple but the Church did not respond to numerous inquiries. In addition, the South Grafton Water District released a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the leasing of a portion of this water tank for wireless communications facilities. T-Mobile responded to said RFP and the South Grafton Water District awarded the RFP to T-Mobile, allowing it to negotiate terms mutually acceptable to both parties.

- 5. In connection with this Site, Centerline has provided site acquisition services, including researching the area, identifying potential alternative candidates, and leasing the property at 29 Leland Hill Road, Grafton, MA identified by Grafton Assessor's records as Map: 113 Parcel: 104A.
- The geographic area defined by T-Mobile's radio frequency experts consists of a mix of business and residential properties.
- 7. Within the area defined by the radio frequency expert, there are at least portions of the following zoning districts: R20-Residential; R40-Residential; and Neighborhood Business. Per Sec. 3.2.3.1 Use regulations Schedule, Wireless Communications Facilities are allowed in R20 zones with the grant of a Special Permit from the Planning Board.
- 8. In searching the area defined by the radio frequency expert, the following potential locations were identified, considered, and rejected for the reasons stated below:
  - A) 21 Follette Street Follette Street Solar Field. Proposed construction of a new communications tower. Mr. Tim McInerney, Grafton Town Administrator, was contacted regarding a proposed lease with T-Mobile for the construction of a new tower. According to Mr. McInerney, the Town of Grafton expressed initial interest in pursuing a lease with T-Mobile. However, whenever possible and in accordance with Grafton Zoning By-Law Section 5.8.3, the Town of Grafton's strongest preference is to locate Wireless Communications Facilities "on existing structures...". T-Mobile also prefers to install its facilities on an existing structure. The South Grafton Water District was interested to pursue a lease with T-Mobile for the installation of its equipment upon the existing water tank. The proposed installation on the tank allows T-Mobile to improve its wireless service in the Town of Grafton without the necessity of building a new tower.
  - B) 86 Main Street Union Congregational Church. Multiple attempts were made to reach the landlord to propose installing T-Mobile's equipment at the church. The church did not reply and express interest to pursue the project with T-Mobile. Ultimately, T-Mobile pursued the opportunity with the South Grafton Water District for the installation of its equipment upon the water tank at Leland Hill.

9. Based on my review of the zoning ordinance, my personal knowledge of the area, and the candidates approved by T-Mobile's radio frequency expert, none of the potential alternative candidates located within allowed zoning districts are reasonably feasible alternatives to the proposed Site. In addition, based on my experience and in my professional opinion, the Site is the least intrusive and available alternative to provide adequate coverage to this significant gap in T-Mobile's network coverage.

Executed this 1 th day of January 2018

Paul Reed, Site Acquisition Specialist

Centerline Communications LLC

for T-Mobile Northeast LLC